

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

This application is a divisional application of parent application 10/178,749, filed on June 25, 2002. The specification and Abstract have been amended.

Claims 7-18 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-6 canceled by the present preliminary amendment. The specification and Abstract has been amended. However, no new matter has been added.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for examination on the merits, and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870



22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
EHK/mlh

l:\atty\EHK\Amend-Responses\0039\239067US.Prel Am.doc